

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 RSC-01 AID-05 EB-07 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06

EUR-12 NEA-06 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 SWF-01 SP-02 L-02

H-01 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 OIC-02 ABF-01 OMB-01

PM-03 /089 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8412

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FODAG

IO FOR BYRNES/EB FOR PLACKE/PASS USDA/FAS FOR IOA AND FRASER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON, EAGR, UN

SUBJECT: FAO COUNCIL: CONCLUSION OF DEBATE ON WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE
FOLLOW-UP.

REF: (A) ROME 16361; (B) STATE 260091

SUMMARY: COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 27 CONCLUDED DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 6,
WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP. DEBATE WAS CONSTRUCTIVE AND RESULTS
WERE GENERALLY SATISFACTORY FROM US VIEWPOINT. IN ORDER ENSURE
GOVERNMENT INPUTS INTO FURTHER FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS PROGRAM AND FINANCE
COMMITTEES WILL MEET IN JANUARY AND COUNCIL IN MARCH 1975. END
SUMMARY.

1. COUNCIL CHAIRMAN BUL-HOYOS INTRODUCED ITEM BY SUGGESTING THAT
ELEMENTS PROPOSED BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL IN CL 64/LIM/4 WERE IN PRINCIPLE

AGREED BY THE COUNCIL. HE THEN STATED THE VIEW OF THE SECRETARIAT
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THAT (A) THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL SHOULD BE GIVEN PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

TO SPEND UP TO \$1 MILLION IN 1975 TO CARRY OUT NECESSARY ACTIVITIES DURING INTERIM PERIOD; (B) PRELIMINARY OUTLINE OF THE 1976-77 IMPACT OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE ON PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET (CL 64/LIM/8), REQUESTED EARLIER BY COUNCIL, SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF DETAILED REVIEW BY A SPECIAL JOINT SESSION OF THE PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES, JANUARY 13-24; AND (C) A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE CONVENED IN THE SPRING (PROBABLY MARCH 10-14). THE PURPOSE OF LATTER MEETING WOULD BE TO ALLOW GOVERNMENTS OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW PROGRESS ON WFC FOLLOW-UP. AGENDA WOULD INCLUDE: (1) IMPACT OF WFC RESOLUTIONS ON FAO PROGRAM IN 1975 AND IN FUTURE YEARS; (2) BUDGETARY ASPECTS; INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE JOINT SESSION OF THE PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES ON THIS AND ALSO POINT ONE; AND (3) THE MISSION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE FAO COUNCIL; INCLUDING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND THE PROPOSED WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AS WELL AS OTHER BODIES STEMMING FROM WFC FOLLOW-UP ACTION.

2. CONSENSUS, ESSENTIALLY ARRIVED AT IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS, QUICKLY EMERGED IN FAVOR OF PROPOSED JOINT SESSION OF PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL COUNCIL SESSION. MOST DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THESE MEETINGS WOULD ALLOW FOR BALANCED REVIEW BY GOVERNMENTS OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S PROPOSALS ALTHOUGH SEVERAL, INCLUDING THE US, NONETHELESS CAUTIONED SECRETARIAT AGAINST MOVING AHEAD TOO SWIFTLY ON FOLLOW-UP. SOME DELEGATIONS SUGGESTED IN ADDITION THAT PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE KEPT INFORMED AS DEVELOPMENTS OCCURRED, FOR QUICK REFERRAL TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS. PROPOSED AGENDA FOR COUNCIL SESSION WAS GENERALLY ENDORSED, BUT SOME DELEGATIONS SUGGESTED POSSIBLE ADDITIONS, ESPECIALLY REGARDING EXAMINATION OF DECENTRALIZATION PROPOSALS.

3. REGARDING INTERIM AUTHORITY TO SPEND UP TO \$1 MILLION IN 1975, THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT SUCH AUTHORITY WAS NECESSARY TO ALLOW DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO OFFER TO SET UP REQUIRED SECRETARIAT SUPPORT FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AND TO MEET OTHER POTENTIAL OBLIGATIONS OF A NON-PERMANENT NATURE. AS FOR EVENTUAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS OR PROGRAMS REQUIRING CONTINUING OBLIGATIONS, IT WAS AGREED THAT PRIOR REVIEW BY THE PROGRAM

AND FINANCE COMMITTEES WOULD BE REQUIRED, AND THAT, AS NECESSARY, COUNCIL SHOULD APPROVE. CEILING FIGURE OF \$1 MILLION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS TO BE FINANCED PRIMARILY FROM PROGRAM SAVINGS AND SECONDLY FROM CURRENCY REVALUATION SAVINGS.

4. MOST DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR SECRETARIAT TO ASSUME A ROLE CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND PRIOR TO DECISION BY ECOSOC AND UNGA, AND WITHOUT CONSENT OF THE GOVERNING BOARD, IF ESTABLISHED.

5. ALSO, IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT WFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AQUINO SHOULD TAKE LEAD IN CONVENING A MEETING TO
EXPLORE PROPOSALS FOR RECONSTITUTION OF IGC. SUBJECT OF AD HOC
CONSULTATIONS ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY WAS NOT RAISED UNDER AGENDA ITEM
6; CLARIFICATION OF TIMING AND TERMS OF REFERENCE THESE CONSULTA-
TIONS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE UNDER ITEM 7.

6. FINALLY, PRC DEL STATED THAT PROPOSED INFORMATION SYSTEM ON
CROPS IMPINGED ON NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND PRC THEREFORE RESERVED
THEIR POSITION ON PARTICIPATION IN FAO INFORMATION AND EARLY
WARNING SYSTEM.
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